

List of Candidates

In alphabetical order:

1. Kassim Busuri
2. Mara Humphrey
3. Hlee Lee-Kron
4. Wintana Melekin
5. Crystal Norcross
6. Neal Thao
7. Gary Unger

Kassim Busuri

861 Geranium Ave E, Saint Paul, MN | H: 651-703-3396 | E: qbusuri@gmail.com

December 22, 2018

City of Saint Paul

RE: Application for interim councilmember for Ward 6

Dear Councilmembers,

It's with great interest today to apply for the open ward 6 interim councilmember position. I am confident that I bring to the ward 6 the necessary skills and experience to represent all constituents. With a lengthy experience in working and serving citizens on the East Side and the greater St Paul community. My appointment would be both historic and impactful to help deliver to the constituents of the ward 6 capable and experienced leader who can hit the ground running on day one. I have collaborated and worked with many city council members on broad range of initiatives.

What drew me to the East Side was my passion to help people who are in need of assistance. In the early 2000's I saw a community that was struggling as I came to meet the residents and the most vulnerable adults in the community. As Medical Transporter, I drove chemically depended, mentally ill and low-income community members in the area. Listening and learning from them on their daily challenges. That is when I decided to permanently move to the community and bought my first house on the East Side. While others warned me from moving to this community, I moved to the East Side to make a difference and be actor for change. That is why, I am confident that I understand the challenge facing this community and I can truly serve this community.

I will bring to the city council over 8 years of progressive experience in community engagement and grassroots organizing. My professional experience includes positions such as director of Minnesota Dawah Institute (MDI), working closely with elected officials to help provide services for the community including starting the first ever East African swimming program for women with a partnership of MDI and Ramsey County. As Coordinator of the Community Ambassadors of the City of Saint Paul Downtown, I worked to support at-risk youth to overcome challenges of homelessness, unemployment, re-education and crime reduction among others. This was most rewarding to see our city working with our most vulnerable population.

With a short-term appointment, I will work hard with other city council leaders to advocate for social justice and equity policies. Additionally, working towards restructuring city of Saint Paul hiring policies to avoid cultural barriers that reduce the cities' ability to have a diverse workforce. My recent appointment and experience in serving the City of St Paul's Commission of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity HREEO provides me a unique experience and talents to fit perfectly with the work of the city council. Currently, I also serve on the advisory council for the St Paul Police Department Police Chief help address issues between community and police relations. With my lengthy experience and dedication, I believe it is the right time for me to serve our community.

Attached is my resume for your review, and I look forward to speaking with you further to share with you my passion to serve the people of the ward 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kassim Busuri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kassim Busuri

Kassim Busuri

861 Geranium Ave E, Saint Paul, MN | H: 651-703-3396 | E: qbusuri@gmail.com

Summary

Dynamic community leader with over 8 years' experience working with Saint Paul communities. Accomplished and passionate leader who can effectively engage and organize communities of color. Have a proven history of bridging differences of communities and branches of government. Diligent in driving systematic and organizational changes to improve communities and organizations.

Skills

- Conflict resolution
- Budgeting
- Research
- Community events
- Education initiatives
- Mentoring and training
- Project management
- Team oversight
- Operations improvement
- Risk identification
- Risk management and monitoring
- Community development
- Collective bargaining techniques

Experience

EDUCATION DIRECTOR | 01/2010 to Current

Minnesota Da'wah Institute - St. Paul, MN

- Administrate all educational programs.
- Organize activities for the youth.
- Chair the annual youth convention.
- Administrator of the Center.
- Public Relations.
- Youth Mentoring.
- Manage an annual budget of 200,000.00.

CHILD CARE CENTER DIRECTOR | 01/2013 to Current

Bright Start - Saint Paul, MN

- Administrator of the Center.
- Hiring and Training of Staff.
- Payroll and Accounting.
- Maintaining and updating center policies.
- Curriculum Development.
- Manage an annual budget of 1 million to 1.5 million.

DEAN OF STUDENTS | 08/2017 to 10/2018

Universal Academy Charter School - Minneapolis, MN

- Developed programs and initiatives to increase student enrollment and promote retention.
- Monitored administrative tasks and personnel, including budget development and adherence.

- Promoted improvements to increase academic quality and meet learning outcomes.
- Provided feedback on individual actions, behaviors and verbal responses.
- Routinely met with students' parents regarding in-class issues and learning interruptions to discuss solutions.
- Created and enforced child-based hands-on curriculum to promote student interest and receptive learning.

COORDINATOR & AMBASSADOR | 01/2014 to Current

City of Saint Paul Youth Intervention Initiative - Saint Paul, MN

- Patrolled designated areas with officers on foot.
- Performed crowd control at parades and other large community events.
- Coordinated with onsite managers, liaison officers and other outside agencies regarding safety and preventive maintenance.
- Greeted tenants and guests as they entered and left the property (Downtown Saint Paul)
- Communicated with supervisors regarding any issues that occurred through a daily report and a weekly report.

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS CONSULTANT | 01/2014 to Current

Minneapolis, MN

- Youth violence prevention.
- Organize community event on youth violence prevention.
- Coordinate youth and police outreach events.

Education and Training

Minnesota State University Mankato - | Master

Education and Leadership, May. 2013

GPA: 4.0

University of Minnesota Twin - | Bachelor of Arts

Political Science, Dec. 2010

GPA: 3.0

Languages

Fluent in Somali and basic Swahili and Arabic

Activities and Honors

Honors, Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington-Civilian Award of Merit 2017

Commissioner, Saint Paul HREEO Commission

Member, Saint Paul Chief of Police Advisory Council

Member, Somali American Resource

Member, African American Leadership Council

Board Member, Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County

Advisory Board for the Council On American Islamic Relations MN Chapter (CAIR-MN)



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Melvin Carter, Mayor

367 Grove Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Telephone: 651-266-5588

Facsimile: 651-266-5542

December 19, 2018

RE: Kassim Busuri

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of reference on behalf of Mr. Kassim Busuri of the Minnesota Da'wah Institute in Saint Paul.

I have known Mr. Busuri for several years. He is our trusted and longtime community partner and a member of my advisory council. Mr. Busuri proficiently advises us on the concerns of our East and West African residents and invites us to social and cultural gatherings to strengthen our ties with these communities. His affiliation with this department has been invaluable to us as we work to fortify these relationships.

Through the years, Mr. Busuri has helped us with difficult conversations with members of our Somali-American community. His guidance and diplomacy in these matters has simply been outstanding.

Mr. Busuri is held in high esteem by our command staff. He was a huge help to us in quelling hot tempers during the protests in Saint Paul over the summer of 2016. He aided us in defusing some volatile situations and we were grateful for his peace-making intervention.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Kassim Busuri. Truly, Saint Paul is a better place for his contributions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in my office at 651-266-5503.

Sincerely,

Todd Axtell
CHIEF OF POLICE

Mara B. Humphrey
1510 East Shore Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55106
612-770-0973- mobile
marahumphrey@me.com

January 4, 2019

Ms. Moloney and Honorable Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing to let you know of my interest in serving the citizens of Saint Paul by appointment to the remainder of the Ward 6 term vacated by Council Member Bostrom. I do not intend to run for this seat this year.

I am applying for the interim appointment because I believe it is imperative that Ward 6 has strong leadership over the next year. It is exciting to have the opportunity to look to the next generation of leadership and in the meantime I feel it is important to have East Side interests strongly represented on the City Council.

The East Side is a great place to live and raise a family. People want to live on the East Side- homes are selling quickly and values are increasing. The Hillcrest Golf Course site provides a once in a life-time opportunity to help re-shape the landscape of the East Side for generations to come. There has been a resurgence along major corridors such as Payne Avenue and Phalen Corridor. Bike lanes are making it easier to not be as reliant on cars.

There are a lot of challenges facing Ward 6 and there is so much that can be done to make Ward 6 a vibrant jewel for the City. There are racial equity issues that need to be addressed, a housing shortage, grinding poverty, and crime. Our neighborhood lake, Lake Phalen, has invasive species and gets clogged with a heavy mat of green algae in the summer due to pollution. Heavy and speeding traffic can make it difficult to bike in our neighborhood.

I am a product of the City of Saint Paul. I was born here and went to Saint Anthony Park Elementary, Murray Junior High School, and am a proud graduate of Central High School in 1995. Other than my college years at Saint Lawrence University in New York State I have lived my entire life in this great city.

After returning home from college I chose to make Saint Paul's East Side my home. After renting for a short time, we purchased our first home on the East Side seventeen years ago and later purchased our current home in the Payne Phalen neighborhood ten years ago. I am a mother of four children that are fourth generation Saint Paulites. They are currently all attending public schools in Saint Paul. One reason for choosing to live on the East Side is I appreciate being a part of the diverse community and making my children aware of different cultures and the rich way they contribute to the City. They attend schools reflective of our diversity.

I am proud to consider myself a progressive and a feminist who truly believes that local government can do good things for our community. My first job was with the Minnesota Women's Press and I have worked for the DFL party for years, both as a professional organizer and behind the scenes, to elect candidates. I have been previously elected from the East Side to represent our community.

My professional life has centered around governmental advocacy. One of my roles has been to build consensus and coalitions around problems and work to find solutions. I have used my position as an executive in a trade association to work to empower others financially. I am proud of my work to develop a Women's Leadership Network for female credit union professionals in Minnesota. Through my career my work has helped create new financial products that help set up consumers for financial success as well as expanding access to financial services.

I believe in responsibility, collaboration and professionalism in government service. When the Ramsey County Conservation District was failing its responsibility due to dysfunction amongst the elected officials, I chose to support the staff and the important work they do. I worked to eliminate the board and our elected positions so the important environmental work that the Conservation District does can continue in Ramsey County.

Community participation and engagement are important to me and I have been involved on a number of local boards and committees. Since 2014 I have served on the St. Paul Regional Water Board of Water Commissioners. I also served as a citizen member on the Phalen Master Plan Task Force and am committed to seeing that plan implemented. I enjoy giving back and being a part of my community. I was raised to speak out and make a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for this position. I'd be happy to sit down with you to discuss my qualifications and why I feel I am the best candidate for this interim appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mara B. Humphrey', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mara B. Humphrey

Mara B. Humphrey
1510 East Shore Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55106
612-770-0973- mobile
marahumphrey@me.com

SUMMARY

Strategic leader, government and public affairs professional and coalition builder with 15+ years of progressively responsible experience. Trusted leader in organizational planning, solving problems, building consensus, and taking initiative. Excellent writing, listening and oral communications skills.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017- Present Minnesota Credit Union Network — St. Paul, MN

Vice President- Government Affairs & Association Services

- Vice President for the trade association that represents Minnesota credit unions, responsible for all dues-supported services.
- Report to President & CEO. Manage 3 direct employees, 2 indirect employees and 4 contract employees.
- Member of the executive management team
- Represents credit unions and provides direct supervision over governmental and regulatory affairs, communications and member engagement.
- Direct staff and retained lobbyists on legislative strategy and objectives.
- Oversee regulatory advocacy and compliance programs
- Strategic oversight of the Network's engagement activities including membership development and leadership development.
- Oversee the Network's public and media relations efforts.
- Started and lead the MN Credit Union Women's Leadership Network to increase the number of women in leadership roles.

2007– 2017 Minnesota Credit Union Network — St. Paul, MN

Vice President- Governmental Affairs

- Oversaw Minnesota credit unions' state and federal advocacy efforts, manage credit union public affairs activities and communications
- Advocated for Minnesota credit unions with members of the state legislature and congressional delegation, members of the executive branch and state and federal regulators
- Testified before state and federal legislative bodies on behalf of credit unions and created materials to be used to represent credit unions legislative priorities and positions
- Oversaw and directed credit union public affairs and awareness activities and media.
Launched statewide credit union awareness campaign in 2017 raising \$500,000 in 30 days.
- Identified and develop proactive advocacy efforts including passing first in the nation legislation regarding data breach cost recovery for financial institutions
- Activated Minnesota credit unions' grassroots advocacy network including developing and implementing campaigns that generated over 60,000 contacts to Congress
- Built and maintained relationships with community organizations, business and industry groups and form coalitions
- Staffed Political Involvement Committee and Advocacy Fund Committee to work with members to set legislative priorities

2000– 2007 Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P. — Minneapolis, MN

Government Relations

- Directed the legislative and political strategies for clients including Fortune 500 corporations, associations and non-profits, and guided industry coalitions to successful legislative outcomes
- Lobbied on behalf of clients and tracked legislation of interest
- Coordinated Government Relation department's coverage of legislative issues
- Developed strong relationships with key members of the state legislature and executive branch
- Worked with clients on developing and implementing legislative strategies
- Monitored state legislative and political environment and advised clients on potential impact
- Developed partnerships and worked in coalitions on behalf of clients
- Managed temporary employees

2000 Minnesota House DFL Caucus- St. Paul, MN

Field Worker

- Organized for several campaigns
- Coordinated campaign operations, recruited volunteers and managed efforts

2000 Minnesota House of Representatives- St. Paul, MN

Legislative Assistant

- Worked with multiple state legislators
- Assisted with legislation and constituent services

E D U C A T I O N

Augsburg University - Minneapolis, MN

Masters of Arts, Leadership, expected June 2021

St Lawrence University - Canton, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Government

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Ramsey Conservation District, Supervisor

January 2009-2018

- Elected official representing the East Side of St. Paul
- Board Chair, 2012- 2018
- Made leadership and organizational changes to ensure the long-term stability and sustainability

St. Paul Board of Water Commissioners, Commissioner

August 2014- present

- Appointed by Mayors Coleman and Carter and St. Paul City Council
- Charged with overseeing the utility which serves St. Paul and surrounding communities

Other Leadership positions

- American Association of Credit Union Leagues' State Issues Committee member (2012-present)
- Cooperative Network Credit Union Committee & MN Co-op PAC member (2014- present)
- Global Women's Leadership Network Sister Society Leader (2016- present)
- Citizen member, Phalen Master Plan Task Force (2010-2011)
- Ramsey County Capital Improvement Citizens' Advisory Committee (2005-2008)
- Newbridge Homeowners Association, President (2005-2008)

R E F E R E N C E S

Personal and professional references available upon request.

hlee lee-kron



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January 3, 2019

To the members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am a small business owner, media producer and community member of the sixth ward of Saint Paul. I would like to be considered to serve as the interim council member for Ward 6. I am interested in this position because I believe the diversity of our neighborhood is unique, compelling and a great benefit to all who call this place home. I believe our role as citizens is to be involved, vocal and active. My skills in communications, community organizing, and working with a variety of races and ages can only be a benefit and I believe I can bring some strong ideas and leadership to the position.

I have been actively involved in community building for the past 15 years. I have focused much of my work around community storytelling. I am also a regular contributor to Minnesota Public Radio, I am a teaching artist, and served as a vice chair of the West Side Community Health Services' board of directors. I live, work and volunteer on the East Side. I recently launched my company, the other media group, to highlight community stories. The first series of stories I produced is called Stories from the East Side, profiling 12 small businesses over 12 weeks. This has been an important project to me as I believe in supporting our small businesses and entrepreneurs.

I have a degree in broadcast journalism with a minor in Urban Studies from the University of St. Thomas and have been working for the past several years as a freelance producer and organizer. I am experienced in program and project management and team leadership. I have a great passion for the community, as you can see through my work. I believe in regular citizens being active in the way their communities are governed. In 2012, I worked on a Get Out The Vote campaign called the Minnesota Collective. This goal of this campaign was to empower Asian Americans (who have the lowest voter turn out) to vote. I have also spent many election days driving community elder to the polls.

My experiences have allowed me to develop and hone my communications and teamwork skills, of which I enjoy and thrive in. In addition, I have the capacity to build and maintain relationships with stakeholders from management to community members. I have great organizational skills and experience managing schedules, budgets, deadlines, teams, and projects. I often get teased as a chart and calendar freak, I take it as a compliment! I have also had the opportunity to teach both adults and youth throughout my career. I strive to develop practices in communicating important information to various audiences in a variety of mediums. In addition to my technical and communication skills, I am ambitious and always learning.


I previously worked as a media specialist for the City of Roseville, manning the cameras and microphones during city council meetings. Through this experience, I was able to understand the multitude of tasks that need to be handled to help advance the way the community functions. I find my strength in multitasking and procedures. I have taken my skills working as a one-person media professional for the City of Roseville and channeled it to what I have been doing in the community all my career. I bring a unique set of skills and a unique perspective as a young professional from a refugee family who has dedicated her life to improving the standards of living for all peoples.


I believe I can finish out Mr. Bostrom's term strong. I am eager to serve in improving my hometown in any way. My dedication to the East Side will inform me of what needs to be accomplished and ready for the next elected city council member at the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hlee Lee-Kron

hlee lee-kron

 1399 forest street
saint paul, minnesota 55106

 651.246.2694

 www.theothermediagroup.com

 hlee.lee@gmail.com

 www.linkedin.com/in/hleelee

 @othermediagroup

 facebook.com/theothermediagroup

 www.vimeo.com/theothermediagroup

education

University of St. Thomas;
Minnesota
B.A. Broadcast Journalism;
Minor: Urban Studies
May 2007 | GPA 3.43

skills

- writing, editing and design;
- collecting, researching and
- communicating information;
- excellent organizational and project management skills;
- Manage all aspects of video production;
- Proficient with Mac & PC: Windows, Microsoft Office;
- Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro Editing Systems, Avid Editing Systems, Premiere Pro Editing Systems;
- social media & web 3.0;
- basic HTML and CSS coding;
- fluent in Hmong (spoken) and English languages (spoken, written);
- Experience in working with students of all ages

professional profile

Hlee Lee is a digital-based journalist working with communities that lack fair representation within the mainstream media. She is a respected contributor to established news media outlets in the Twin Cities that include Minnesota Public Radio, Twin Cities Public Television, The UpTake, and more. The trust she has built between both makes her a valuable resource for ensuring that stories that need to be told get told. Hlee Lee-Kron is an award-winning media and communications professional, photographer, program manager, and organizational guru with a passion for telling community-based stories. She is a process-minded person, seeing the big picture, visualizing the path and building the steps to make it happen.

work experience

the other media group 2012 - present
Owner

Provide professional consulting in fields of project development in arts, media and activism, media production, and event photographer. Inclusive project management from conception to completed video or photography project. Also served as a youth mentor and teaching artist. Clients include: Wilder Foundation, Hmong American Partnership, Green Card Voices, ThreeSixty Journalism, St. Catherine University, among others.

The Update 2013 - 2014
Managing Editor

Managed video productions including the scheduling of staff and video/photo shoots for online publication. Served as project management for special projects. Responsible for editing and posting stories on the website and social media. Also served as administrator of operations.

Fox Advancement 2012 - 2013
Associate Consultant

Assisted with nonprofit fundraising efforts which included serving as the main contact for clients, conducting research, and assist with client contracts and grant proposals. Also served as office and operations manager as well as marketing and designer for the firm.

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota 2011 - 2012
External Relations Director

Responsibilities included media and community relations. Photography and video production for campaigns and PR. Planned and wrote the newsletter and quarterly magazine features. Lead event planning for annual gala and summer state-wide bike tour. Managed and produced content for the web and social media.

Twin Cities Public Television 2005 - 2011
Producer


Managed and realized all aspects of short documentary-style television shows from beginning to end product. Including producing and directing in and out of the field and editing. Served as a community contact and managed partner/client relationships.

activities

2014-present	In Progress teaching artist, coordinator, board liaison
2014-present	Minnesota Public Radio Counter Stories contributor
2013-present	West Side Community Health Services board member
2013-2014	Minnesota Public Health Care Advisory Circle


hlee lee-kron

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 www.vimeo.com/theothermediagroup

awards

2017 - Minnesota Business Magazine: 35 Entrepreneurs under 35
2016 - ThreeSixty Journalism/University of St. Thomas: Alumni Achievement Award
2016 - Voqal Fellow
2014 - Society of Professional Journalist Award: "Ordway Production of 'Miss Saigon' Ignites Renewed Protests Over Racists Stereotypes," producer/video reporter
2011 - Changemaker, honored by Minnesota Women's Press: "Women Making Change"; Producer
2011 - Bronze Medal in the national Mature Media Award: "Love of Car: Transportation as We Age"; Producer
2010 - Upper Midwest Emmy Award: "Minnesota's National Park Legacy"; Associate Producer
2009 - Upper Midwest Emmy Award: "Legacy Letters"; Associate Producer
2008 - Upper Midwest Emmy Award: "Prize Performers: A Musical Competition"; Associate Producer
2007 - Minnesota Journalist Abroad Grant Recipient
2003-2007 - Urban Journalism Workshop Grant Recipient
2003 - Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Television Academy Scholarship Recipient: David Bloom Scholarship

references

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Lynda McDonnell
Retired Executive Director,
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612.229.2655
lyndammcdonnell@gmail.com

Wintana Melekin

Wintana@theworldtowin.com | 651-808-5589 | 858 Payne Ave St. Paul MN 55130

Council President Brendmoen and Councilmembers Tolbert, Noecker, Nelson, Prince and Thao:

I moved to the Eastside of St. Paul in 1989. Born in Sudan, my family were refugees from the conflict in Eritrea. We came to St. Paul because we knew we would be welcomed here; my family settled on the Eastside because of the robust diverse community. I knew from my childhood I'd never wanted to live anywhere else. Growing up on the Eastside I saw diversity, community, and resilience. The Eastside gave me opportunities to thrive and turn me into the person I am today: disciplined, hardworking and motivated. I was a parks and recs kid. I played soccer at Phalen and basketball at Arlington. I fell in love with reading at Arlington Hills Library now the East Side Freedom Library. I found my passion for policy as a member of the student leader committee with Mayor Randy Kelly. I've had to deal with slumlords as a college student attending Metro State and now live in affordable housing as a renter above Ward 6 restaurant. I've door knocked all of Railroad Island and throughout Payne-Phalen reminding people to vote. I have held many community meetings on the east side about our needs. Now, I hope to give back to the community that invested in me by serving them on the St. Paul City Council.

My last decade of work encompasses healthcare, community organizing, nonprofit leadership, and business ownership, giving me a breadth of experiences to bring to City Hall. These experiences have provided me with the ability to negotiate during the most tense of conditions, to lead during the most traumatic moments and to organize policy at every level of government and I want to use those skills to serve as the St. Paul City Council Member for Ward 6. I am best suited to represent Ward 6 because I've spent my career strengthening community engagement, creating economic opportunity, and empowering future leaders on the Eastside. The Eastside deserves a leader that understands every corner even those ignored by most. I'm the best suited to govern alongside the community, address the challenges, and tap into the potential of the Eastside.

I've been a community leader on the Eastside my whole life. As a St. Paul Public school graduate, board member of the Payne Phalen District Council, as the owner of Mama's Kitchen on the corner of Maryland and Earl and appointed member of the Earn Sick and Safe Time advisory committee. I've developed trusted relationships with community members from known advocates to residents who have never been to city hall. My experience working with as an active member of the Eastside community is directly transferable to the role of City Council Member. I'm confident my almost lifelong Eastside connections will allow me to hit the ground working with the community from day one.

My community work on the Eastside gave me the skills to work on broader issues of racial justice and equity. I worked for seven years at Neighbors Organizing for Change (NOC), an organization focused on empowering the Black community civically, politically and economically. During my time at NOC, I ran voter registration programs, developed Minnesota's first United Black Legislative Agenda moving millions of dollars at the state level, and served as a board member for the Minneapolis NAACP. In these roles, I secured over 30 million dollars in equity funding, helped pass the ESST in St. Paul, and trained over one thousand community leaders who have gone on to manage statewide campaigns, start their own organizations and lead their own movement work. My work has given me a rich understanding of how public policy can materially change the lives of marginalized communities. In my seven years at NOC, I opened doors for thousands Black

Wintana Melekin

Wintana@theworldtwin.com | 651-808-5589 | 858 Payne Ave St.Paul MN 55130

Minnesotans. I'm excited to bring this experience to City Hall, where I can work to open doors for thousands of Eastsiders.

Following my work as a community organizer, I became active in supporting small businesses, eventually opening several of my own. My proudest accomplishment was opening Mama's Kitchen: a black owned, black employed comfort food restaurant just blocks from my home where I employ a staff of 5 all east siders made up folks who have been impacted by our broken justice system.

Through this experience, I learned the importance of resources for people looking to start small businesses. Our team succeeded because we had the ability of knowing where to find resources. I also know the struggle of meeting payroll and the challenges of fairly paying your staff a while also making ends meet. As a City Council Member I will bring my on the ground experience as a local business owner to make small business ownership a reality for anyone in our city and to help support small businesses implementing pro-worker policies.

In the decade, I've learned how to build solutions with a community, create economic opportunity, and break down barriers for marginalized communities. I am a strategic policy mind, experienced coalition builder, and adept relationship builder My philosophy as City Council Member would be to lead hand-in-hand with community members, create economic opportunity, and remove barriers for marginalized communities. I look forward to sharing more with you about my vision for the Eastside and how we can work to ensure all St. Paul residents have an opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity,
Wintana Melekin



Wintana Melekin

Professional Summary

History of successfully raising awareness of racial and economic justice issues with local communities and passing policy based on request from community. Experienced in working with Saint Paul communities to get issues heard at a state level from issues such as public safety & raising minimum wage. Analytical problem-solver with good conflict resolution and time management skills. Seeking to serve the constituents of Ward 6 as a 20 resident as a small business owner with robust policy and community organizing background.

Work History

Momma's Kitchen - Owner

Saint Paul, MN

05/2018 - Current

- Exceeded sales goals by 25% through effective management of employees, supplies and equipment.
- Used print strategies such as newspaper ads, business catalogs and marketing brochures to bring in and capture new customer business.
- Provided financial management through preparation of bank deposits, sales, returns and transaction reports.
- Capitalized on social media platforms such as Facebook and Increase to increase market awareness and recruit sales agents.
- Put together realistic budgets based upon costs and fees for effectively operating the business.
- Monitored processes and procedures, making sure that they met all compliance regulations.

Ilhan Omar For Congress - Political Director

Minneapolis, MN

06/2018 - 08/2018

- Built political coalitions to enhance message which resulted in endorsed by every major progressive organization with in district.
- Created grassroots campaign initiatives that successfully mobilized support to result in candidate being endorsed by 50+ local elected officials and multiple members of congress.
- Responded to citizens', unions, progressive allies requests for information and services.

Wintana@TheWorldToWin.com

(651) 808-5589

858 Payne Ave , Saint Paul, MN 55130

Skills

- Strategic planning
- Business analysis
- Financial management
- Negotiation
- Coaching and mentoring
- Staff management
- Relationship building
- Outreach management
- Advocacy experience
- Mobilization support
- Program oversight
- Conflict resolution
- 10 year Community Organizer
- Legislative tracking techniques
- Fact-finding and investigations
- Fluent in Tigrinya
- Crisis and emergency communications
- Program evaluation
- Outstanding community leader
- Reporting and documentation
- Policy development
- Stakeholder relations
- Lobbying effort coordination
- Campaign analysis
- Advocacy
- Caseload management
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Contract oversight
- Proposal writing
- Community-based planning

- Supervised and coached a deputy director and team of organizers.

Minnesota Neighborhoods Organizing For Change - Movement

Director

Minneapolis , MN

10/2012 - 01/2018

- Worked directly with elected officials to achieve progressive policies.
- Supporting policies changes such as passing such \$9.50 state wide, \$15 minimum wage in Minneapolis, improving body camera state wide bill, ESST in St. Paul and moving millions of dollars into communities impacted by racial disparities.
- Coordinated and implemented numerous meetings, forums and community events including hosting presidential candidate forum with Bernie Sanders, Jill Stein and various city council races throughout the years.
- Hired, trained and supervised multiple staff members and volunteers for large events to electoral campaigns.
- Organized over 250 educational forums, candidate forums and community meetings.

Regions Hospital - Materials Management

Saint Paul, MN

06/2002 - 01/2012

- Completed frequent inventory counts and resolved discrepancies.
- Kept stock areas clean, tidy and organized according to facility requirements.
- Enforced the on-time shipment of products to create exceptional customer experiences.
- Verified computations against physical count of stock.

Accomplishments

- Served on Executive Committee of NAACP. Serve as board members of District 5 Community Council. Recipient of Spirit of the Moran Community Leader award from local paper Mshale.
- Lead United Black Legislative Agenda bringing together 10 black community organizations on a weekly basis to create a robust policy agenda. Which was endorsed by Governor Mark Dayton and Star Tribune. Went on to move over 10 million dollars into equity organizations and mobilized of 1000 community members through various forms of engagement.
- Organized and lobbied at state level with community for Earn Sick and Safe Time which lead to it's passing in Minneapolis. Then appointed to St. Paul City Committee to help craft the most progressive ESST policy in the country.

Education

2005

Saint Paul Central High School

Saint Paul, MN

High School Diploma

Crystal Norcross

847 York Avenue, Apartment #2
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106
651-706-3473
cnorc11@gmail.com

January 4th, 2019

Ms. Trudy Moloney
Operations Director
City Council Offices
City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 310
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Moloney:

Han Mitakuyepi (greetings) and thank you for considering my application for Interim Councilmember position with the Saint Paul City Council, Ward 6. I initially heard about this position from Councilwoman Jane Prince. After serious consideration and self-reflection, I made the decision to apply for this position; and I am prepared to devote the time, energy and passion that the Saint Paul City Council rightfully expects when seeking a successful representative. As you can see in my attached resume, I bring a wealth of experience from various backgrounds and multiple interactions with the city government and its operations. Not only do I have this experience but I bring an important part of our community to the forefront when meeting with city staff and constituents. I am an active leader in the Native American community. I can assure you that I will not only bring the voice of the community in which I represent but the voice of all community members in Ward 6 of Saint Paul.

I have over ten years of experience serving as a representative to various civic and community stakeholders. I am experienced in community outreach, identifying and securing grants, and working with various stakeholders and institutions to support our community in moving forward. These various stakeholders/institutions include, but are not limited to, the following: criminal justice system, the public-school system, community art, zoning for residential businesses and mental health. I can interpret and implement proven solutions through a community lens, ensuring all voices of our community are heard and represented in decision making.

I am able to provide an expert insight of the Native American community for other professionals, stakeholders and constituents in a way that is easy to understand. I have the ability to communicate and foster relationships between native communities and government entities in a manner that produces results that all parties are proud of. Not only do I enjoy sharing the cultural roots of my community but I enjoy learning about other's experiences, interpretations of policies and it's impacts but also about their needs and values with the goal of finding a common ground.

Again, I appreciate you considering my application for Interim Councilmember with the Saint Paul City Council, Ward 6. I look forward to the opportunity to speak to you about my ten years of experience in the serving as a representative to various civic and community stakeholders and how I have found success in embracing all needs, views and values in creating change that positively impacts the entire community. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, 651-706-3473, or e-mail cnorc11@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Crystal Norcross

Crystal Norcross

847 York Avenue, Apartment #2
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106
651-706-3473
cnorc11@gmail.com

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Over 10 years of serving as a representative to various civic and community stakeholders on behalf of Communities of Color and east side residents

Experienced in social policy and its impacts on community members and stakeholders in various institutional settings, including but not limited to, the following: criminal justice system, the public-school system, community art, zoning for residential and businesses, and mental health

Exceptional ability in community outreach and engagement, resulting in an increased number of community voices, which is used to inform constituents when making key decisions and implementing policies

Demonstrated ability to identify and secure competitive grants to service the needs of the community and propel initiatives forward

Skilled in applying culturally informed, evidence based and life experience to policies and various community investments to maximize return in investment

Able to provide expertise in American Indian Cultural issues

CIVIC/COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROLES

District Five Community Council Member Payne-Phalen Neighborhood

**December 2018-January 2019
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Appointed Community Council Member for 1-year term to organize community engagement efforts on behalf of the city's district plan
- Contributor to local community's requests for letters of support to city council for zoning, housing related issues, and business development
- Proven skill set as a community organizer to increase community participation about the planning and decision-making process through forums and formal/informal meetings
- Identify and apply for appropriate grants to increase equity within the district, city and county
- Active collaborator with other governing officials, including the city council and county commissioners on behalf of the district

Alternative Governance Committee Board Member Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

**March 2018-Present
Ramsey County, Minnesota**

- Determine strategies and solutions that are reflective of the community's input and needs to reduce juvenile delinquency placements in facilities
- Actively seek competitive grants to propel initiatives forward, review funding and budgetary needs to inform and develop Request for Proposals (RFP), review applications and determine appropriate community provider(s) to execute solutions developed by the board
- Objectively determine facts and draw conclusions based on evidence based research and input received directly from the community to ensure the community's unique needs are met
- Represent and inform community stakeholders and members of the committee about Native American culture
- Active member on the JDAI Data Committee to ensure the Native American community is accurately reflected within the data

Elected Community Representative Saint Paul Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee

**June 2017-Present
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Work collaboratively with the members of the School Board and the Superintendent
- Communicate the educational needs of the Saint Paul American Indian Community
- Work towards district policy change that benefits American Indian students
- Participate in the district consultation with Minnesota Tribal Nations
- Advise and provide input into the implementation of Indian Education Federal and State grants

**Indian Mounds Regional Park
Advisory Team**

**August 2017-Present Project
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Organize and ensure city guidelines were honored for a project, which resulted in the formation of the Project Advisory Team which is laying the ground work with Dakota Nations, Stake holders and city officials
- Provide prospective of the project to residents and Dakota communities
- Make, and execute, a Cultural Landscape Study and Interpretative Plan
- Participant in a pilot program seeking to improve the quality in relationships between the city and with native nations
- Identify stakeholders to participate in project
- Lay the groundwork in helping the collaboration understand how others internalize and interpret Dakota perspective

**RCCMHC Interim Co- Chair
Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative**

**December 2017- Present
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Advocate in bringing systems and families together to meet the needs of children with mental health disorders
- Define and safeguard the organizational mission through policies and planning objectives
- Determine resources required to achieve the collaborative's objectives and how the collaborative will be held accountable to its constituents and to the public for its expenditure of funds and for all services provided

**Chair of Board
Oyate Hotainin**

**January 2016-Present
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Activist with the Native American community mobilizing a new era of art, healing and change
- Informer to the public opinion about the impacts of historical trauma and educator of alternatives within social policy to appropriately address areas of practice
- Utilizing a community lens to inform public policy and community stakeholders
- Demonstrate ability to work independently and collectively within a Collaborative Community Model
- Serve as a Community Liaison to voice and help create ' The States Of Incarceration' Exhibit based at the Minnesota Historical Society

**Collaborative Community Leadership
InEquality (Oyate Hotainin)**

**August 2015-Present
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Collaborator with the African American and Native American communities in addressing racial inequalities within the criminal justice system to advocate for the investment of alternative programming
- Policy Advocate to both State and Federal levels on criminal justice practices and decisions
- Creator in developing an atmosphere for community healing and visioning for informing systemic reform

**Vice-President of Board
Dayton's Bluff Community Council (District 4)**

**November 2016-December 2017
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

- Contributor to local community's requests for letters of support to city council for zoning, housing related issues, and business development
- Proven skill set as a community organizer to increase community participation about the planning and decision-making process through forums and formal/informal meetings
- Identify and apply for appropriate grants to increase equity within the district, city and county
- Active collaborator with other governing officials, including the city council and county commissioners on behalf of the district
- Leader in a financial accountability review which resulted in an audit and a financial restructuring for the council

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Minneapolis Community and Technical College- Degree In Progress, class of 2021

RACE Workshop hosted by Penumbra Theatre- for JDAI race Equity December 2018

Trauma, Truth, & Reconciliation in Juvenile Justice- In Equality November 2018

Financial Literacy- Bii Gii Wiin November 2017

Co-Facilitating workshop- American Indian Family Center July 2017

Historical Trauma Workshop- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center February 2017

Crystal Norcross

847 York Avenue, Apartment #2
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106
651-706-3473
cnorc11@gmail.com

REFERENCES

Sheri Reimers
Government Relations Director
Ain Dah Yung Center
(612)-704-1406
sheri.riemers@adycenter.org

John Bobolink
Program Supervisor
SPPS Indian Education
(651)-230-4859
john.boblink@spps.org

Brenda Williams
Principal
Quinn Evans Architects
(608)-260-8020
bwilliams@quinnevans.com

From: Neal Thao <Neal.Thao@metrostate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 6:05 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Council-Vacancy
Cc: nealthao@comcast.net
Subject: Candidate for Council's member Bostrom Interim Seat
Attachments: Neal Thao - Resume.docx

To: Search Committee of Interim City Council Seat of Council Bostrom
From: Neal Thao
Date: 12/18/2018

Reference: Application as a candidate of the Interim Council Member for Council Bostrom seat.

Attached please find my resume as a candidate for the "Interim Council Seat of Council Bostrom".

I am a resident of Ward 6 and have lived on 1627 Dieter Street since October 2003. I have been a community activist, a social work practitioner, an educator, and a parent of four beautiful children, who attended St. Paul Public School. I started my social work practitioner career here at Ramsey County Human Services on April 26, 1984 on 160 East Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55101 and had lived in the west side of St. Paul for a decade prior to moving to my current residence.

St. Paul is a small big city of America. This city has given so much to me, my family and my fellow refugees from Laos; I am determined to preserve the quality of life for all residents of St. Paul and many more generations to come. St. Paul is a safe city to raise healthy families and foster strong and diverse community with world class k-12 public education.

I am pleased to submit my application as a candidate for this "Interim City Council Seat" of Council member Bostrom.

Please let me know what other materials should I furnish to your committee.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

Neal Thao

Neal Thao, MSW, Ed.D.
Resident of 1627 Dieter Street – St. Paul, MN 55106
Cell: 651-246-4400
nealthao@comcast.net
(Work Address as below)
Associate Professor and Program Director
Social Work Department
College of Community Studies and Public Affairs
Metropolitan State University
700 East 7th Street, SJH 217
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-793-1345
Neal.thao@metrostate.edu

Neal Thao

1627 Dieter Street ■ St. Paul, MN 55106 ■ Tel: 651-246-4400 • E-m: nealthao@comcast.net

EDUCATION

- **Ed.D.** **University of Minnesota Twin Cities -**
Work, Human Resource, and Education
Department (WHRE) and School of Social Work
2000 - 2008
- **Master of Social Work** **University of Minnesota** 1986-1988.
Minneapolis, MN.
- **Bachelor of Sciences** **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**
1978-1983. Milwaukee, WI.
- **Premier** (Laotian High School) **Lycee de Vientiane, Laos** 1969-1975.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- **Metropolitan State University – St. Paul, MN.**
- **Associate Professor, Program Director & Chair of the Social Work Department** (as of 1/1/09 - Present.)

Responsibilities:

- **Program Director:** Administer social work program and work closely with the Dean of College of Community Study and Public Affairs in regard to assigning teaching load to faculty members, coordinating accreditation process, and manage daily activities of the Social Work Department (as of January 2009).
- Teach six core courses of the BSW Program: **Introduction to Social Work, Social Welfare History and Policy, Junior Field Seminar, Senior Capstone, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, and Social Work Practice II: Organizations & Community.**
- **Provide field practicum instruction and supervision** to senior BSW students.
- Teach Human Service Course: **Working with Immigrant and Refugee Families.**
- **Provide field practicum instruction and supervision** to the junior BSW students on site at the two Hmong Learning Centers.
- Coordinate the field placement for the BSW program.
- Administer and Coordinate the two Hmong Community Learning Centers including identifying Hmong agencies to host the community learning centers, hire, and train field supervision instructors; coordinate the lease of space for the Hmong community learning, and pay the invoices properly.
- Meet with candidates of our BSW program to make sure they have taken the appropriate prerequisites, have significant experiences with people of color,

and have earned the AA or AS or nearly accumulated credits equivalent to AA or AS degree, and review their application for admission to our BSW program.

- Coordinate the interviews for admission and finalize our admission rosters for fall and spring
- Advising students to complete their BSW on time; provide recommendations to support their MSW application for admission at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities or elsewhere; provide recommendations to graduates for employment opportunities, and recommending students for outstanding student award of the year; oversee Social Work Student Association (SWSA), advocate students to attend CSWE, BPD, MSSA (Minnesota Social Services Association, county employees), and other local conferences
- Coordinate students' graduation banquet and Master's Panel event annually where eight MSW programs come annually to speak to our BSW candidates about the MSW admission process and program of these universities including U of M-TC, UW-Madison, Augsburg College, St. Catherine, USC, Case Western Reserve, U of MN-Duluth, and St. Cloud State University.

Major Accomplishments:

- The BSW Program was initially accredited in 1998 and re-accredited in 2002 & 2010.
- Promoted to Associate Professor on July 1st, 2007.
- Received tenure on July 1st, 2003.
- Recipient of the **Bush Fellowship** for 18 months to pursue the Ed.D. Degree of Social Work Program and the Leadership Academy at the University of Minnesota (Sept/2000-June/2002).
- Recipient of the **Snyder Fellowship** for the Social Work Professional studies – University of Minnesota (2000).
- Founded Lub Golden Village, a non-profit organization in 2000;
- Hosted a banquet for 500 people to meet and greet President Mark Yudof of U of MN, President Bradshaw of Metropolitan State University, and Superintendent Harvey of St. Paul Public School in 3/2001 at Midway Sheraton Hotel;
- Nearly half of the graduates of the BSW at Metropolitan State University have been students of color since June 1997.
- Forty Hmong students have pursued & graduated from the MSW degree.
- Seventy Hmong have graduated from the BSW program of Metropolitan State University.
- Granted sabbatical leave for one year (Sept. 2005 – August 2006.)
- Chaired the R4K Early School Readiness for Hmong from November 2006 to the present: ***successfully trained 160 Hmong to become champion for early school readiness.***

□ **Ramsey County Community Human Services Department – St. Paul, MN**

- **Hmong Cultural Consultant, *Ending Racial Disparities Project in Child Protective Services' Out-of-Home Placement program*, April 2004 – 2010**

Responsibilities:

- Work with Ramsey County Community Human Services-Child Protective Services Unit to reduce racial disparity in out-of-home placement services
- Facilitated focus groups with Southeast Asian staff members at Ramsey County Human Services Department
- Facilitated four focus groups with Hmong professionals and community leaders
- Panelist at many forums with Ramsey County Community Human Services mainstream staff and administrators, judges, school social workers, court administrators, and law enforcement members.
- Design mediation services for targeted clients, the “Hmong”, as recommended by the focus groups as an alternative response model to child protective services at Ramsey County Community Human Services Dept.

▪ **Community Faculty, Social Work Department,**
January 1997 - September 1997.

Responsibilities:

- Taught field practicum seminar to the junior BSW students.
- Provided field practicum supervision to the junior BSW students on site at the Hmong Learning Center.

□ **Saint Paul Public Schools District – St. Paul, MN - January 1996 – December 2003**

- **Elected Board Member** of Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS)
- Elected in 1995 with the most votes
 - Re-elected in 1999 with the second most votes
 - Held Clerk, Treasurer, and Vice-Chair positions during my eight years tenure on the Board of SPPS.

Responsibilities:

- Set the mission & goals for the school district.
- Establish public policy that fulfills the mission.
- Hire and supervise the Superintendent to help shape and implement public policy and run the district’s daily operation.
- Evaluate the Superintendent’s performance.
- Adopt the district’s annual budget of between \$ 460,000,000.00 to \$ 550,000,000.00 from 1996 to 2003.
- Approve negotiated employees’ contracts – 7000 employees.
- Participate in board meetings.
- Chairperson of Operation & Community Relation Committees.
- Vice-Chair of the SPPS Board (in 2002).
- Analyze inputs from the public, clients, members, and district’s staff.
- Participate in lobbying the Federal government and Congress for funding.
- Participate in organization & community activities.

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully held a banquet at Concordia University in 1996 to create the Southeast Asian Teaching programs (SEAT). Senator Wellstone was the guest Speaker with 400 Hmong leaders joining the event. As a result, the SEAT program was created in March 1997 and received State funding of \$ 500,000.00 and \$ 1,000,000.00 respectively for the past two years. More than fifty students of color, mainly Southeast Asians are currently attending the program.
- Successfully held meeting with St. Mary's University-School of Education in 1998 to address the need of more Hmong students admitting to the Master and Doctoral program at St. Mary's University. As a result, the first cohort of six Hmong students and a second cohort of Hmong students in the M.A. program have taken place at Arlington High in St. Paul during evenings and weekends.
- Successfully organized a banquet at the Law School of Hamline University in 1997 to address the need of more Southeast Asian admitting to the law program. As a result, each year, there have been at least one or two Southeast Asian students admitting to the law program.
- Successfully initiated and formed a Charter School for Hmong children-HOPE Academy in St. Paul; this school was opened since the fall of 2000.
- Increased diverse teaching force and administrators.
- Increased Southeast Asian parental involvement significantly.
- Increased students of color and low socio-economic status into accelerating programs.
- Ended social promotion.
- Adopted the 25 books reading marathon.
- Hired an effective and experienced Superintendent.
- Placed 11 schools on probation.
- Adopted a new strategic planning.
- Recipient of the **1998-99 Excellence Hmong Educator Award**.
- Recipient of the **Literacy Minnesota Adult Basic Education Advocacy Award** of the Year, August 20, 2003; Breezy Point, Brainerd, MN.

□ **Ramsey County Community Human Services Department**—St. Paul, MN.

- **Case Manager**, January 1992 – September 1997.

Responsibilities:

- Provided case management services for children with developmental delays.
- Coordinated out of home placements for children whose needs are beyond home provision.
- Worked with parents, home care providers, health care providers, educational institutions, and courts to ensure the least restrictive placements to meet the children's needs.

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully recruited, trained, and retained Southeast Asian people to become home health aides/personal care attendants for Southeast Asian children, and created the Southeast Asian Personal Care Attendant Services.

- Successfully organized five annual conferences for Hmong parents with children of developmental delays; more than 90 percent of parents attended the conferences.
 - Recipient of the 1995 ARC of Anoka-Ramsey Counties Award for **Outstanding Social Worker for Families and Children.**
- **Probation Officer**, September 1989-January 1992.

Responsibilities:

- Provided probation supervision to juveniles with offenses ranging from status offenses to felony.
- Case Management Services including court appearances, recommendations, and placement coordination.
- Referrals for counseling/treatment, alternative education, employment, and independent living programs.
- Facilitated transition from treatment to family reunification and monitored after care services.

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully placed Southeast Asian juveniles into mainstream facilities.
- Recipient of the **1992 Outstanding Alumnus Leadership Award for Services to Children and Families**, University of Minnesota, Graduate School of Social Work.

- **Southeast Asian Culturally Sensitive Child Protection Social Worker**, March 1984 – September 1989.

Responsibilities:

- Provided home-based child protection services to abused and neglect children, including court services coordination of counseling/treatment, out of home placements, and family reunification.
- Outreach to the Southeast Asian Communities for resource development
- Collaborated with law enforcement and schools to educate parents of child protective services.
- Collaborate with others to reduced Hmong early marriage.

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully organized many mediation meetings between clan leaders, the clients, parents, and the county officials to resolve problems related to child abuse and neglect.
- Successfully advocated and convinced Ramsey County Human Department's administrators to implement a policy to prohibit early marriage arrangements in the Hmong community (see articles in Pioneer press and Star Tribune).
- Successfully advocated and lobbied for the increased hiring of Southeast Asian staff at the county.
- Successfully advocated and lobbied the county for licensing Hmong homes to become foster homes for placing Hmong children in these facilities.
- Recipient of the Child Welfare Scholarship Award to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota (Sept. 1986 - March 1988.)

❑ **International Institute of Milwaukee County – Milwaukee, WI.**

▪ **Caseworker**, January 1983 – March 1984.

Responsibilities:

- Case management and outreach services to the Southeast Asian and other immigrants' communities of the Milwaukee County.
- Provided adjustment of status services (Permanent residence and Naturalization) for immigrants.

Major Accomplishments:

- Increased service utilization from the Southeast Asian community.
- Successfully organized two conferences for Southeast Asian Refugees to learn about the adjustment of status process.

❑ **Milwaukee Public School District – Milwaukee, WI.**

▪ **Educational Assistant**, September 1981 – June 1982.

Responsibilities:

- Worked with individuals or small groups of English as Second Language students under the direction of the ESL teachers or the subject content teachers and with the school nurse or social worker.

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully organized two Hmong cultural shows at two different schools.
- Increased Hmong parental involvement in schools.
- Increased teaching staff's sensitivity to Hmong culture.

❑ **Catholic Social Services of Northeastern Wisconsin – Green Bay, WI.**

▪ **Bilingual Worker**, January 1979 – August 1980.

Responsibilities:

- Case management services for newly arrived refugees in the northeastern areas of Wisconsin.
- Advocacy, referral, and tutoring service for Southeast Asian Refugees.

Major Accomplishments:

- Co-Founder and board member of the Brown County Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, a non-profit organization for serving Hmong refugees.
- Founder and chair of Hmong Youth Organization for sport, cultural show, and enrichment activities.

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES:

Hmong Nationalities Organization

- *Organized & Coordinated Hmong Interglobal New Year Celebration at the Intercontinental Hotel down town St. Paul on the third Saturday of 2017, where 700 Hmong leaders and community members from the U.S., Australia, France, Canada, and Thailand attended this event.*
- *Organized, coordinated, and hosted a town hall meeting between the Hmong Community Leaders and Metropolitan State University President Ginny Arthur and her Executive team to discuss and explore opportunities and partnership to create a Hmong Study Program at Metropolitan State University in order to increase Hmong students; enrollment, retention, and graduation rate at Metropolitan State University. 150 Hmong leaders met with President Ginny Arthur on February 25, 2017 at a Hmong agency for 3 hours;*
- *Another summit took place on March 24, 2017 where 150 Hmong leaders met President Ginny Arthur at Metropolitan State University to revisit and brainstorm action plan to establish a Hmong Study Program at Metropolitan State University. As a result, a Hmong scholar was hired as a community faculty to teach an Ethnic Hmong Study course, known as ETHS 380: An Introduction to Hmong Linguistics and Cultural Practice for spring 2018*
- *Currently organize and lobby MN State Representative Fue Lee (D-Minneapolis) to draft a bill to secure funding for a FTE faculty position for the Hmong Study Program at Metropolitan State University for this 2018 Minnesota State Legislature session. This bill is in working progress and has good chance to be approved by the Minnesota State Legislature.*

Minnesota Office of Higher Education (1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55108)

- *Attainment Goal Stakeholder Committee Member (September 2017 – Present)*

Inter Faculty Organization (IFO), Metropolitan State University

- *Active IFO member since September 1997*
- *Government Relation Committee Member of the 7 Minnesota State University, IFO, representing Metropolitan State University (2008 – 2015)*

St. Paul Firefighter Written Test Committee

- *Written Test Committee Member (March 2017 – Present)*

Lao Hmong Students Reunion – Lao Hmong Students Before 1975

- *Coordinator of the “40 Years Reunion Celebration of the 3rd Lao Hmong Students Reunion on July 2nd, 2015 at Hmong House, N. St. Paul, MN*

Hmong Nationalities Organization

- *Chair, Government Relation Committee (March 2010 – Present)*

Neighborhood House – Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center

- *Board of Directors Member (October 2012 to October 2015)*

Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

- *Stakeholder Committee Member (2008 – Present)*

Ramsey County Correctional Department

- *Board Member of Ramsey County Correctional Department Advisory Committee (2010 – Present)*

LANA (Lao American National Alliance)

- *Board of Directors Member (2014-2015).*

Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) – St. Paul, MN. October 2003 – 2010

- *Member of Board of Director*

Growth and Justice – St. Paul, MN, January 2006 – 2009

- *Steering Committee Member*

Cristo Rey Catholic High School - Twin Cities, MN. October 2004 – 2007

- *Steering Committee Board Member*

HOPE Academy (Charter School) – St. Paul, MN. January 2002 – April 2004

- *Member of Board of Directors & Chair of Parental Involvement.*
- *Co-Founder (1999).*

The Hmong Culture Center - St. Paul, MN. 2002 – 2004

- *Member of Board of Directors*

Minnesota Minority Education Partnership – Minneapolis, MN.

January 1996 – December 2001.

- *Member of Board of Directors.*

MN Supreme Court Racial Task Force – St. Paul, MN. 1996 - 2000.

- *Member of the Task Force.*

Hamline University School of Law – St. Paul, MN. 1997- 2003

- *Member of the Dean's Advisory Board.*

Friends of St. Paul Library – St. Paul, MN. 1996 - 1999.

- *Member of Board of Directors.*

Neighborhood House – St. Paul, MN. 1996 - 1997.

- *Member of Board of Directors.*

Mounds Park Academy (K-12 private school) – St. Paul, MN. 1990 - 1995.

- *Member of Board of Directors.*

Model Health City of St. Paul - St. Paul, MN. 1993-1994.

- *Member of Board of Directors.*

St. Paul Hmong Parent-Teacher Organization District Wide - St. Paul, MN.
1993 - 1995.

- *Chair and Lobbyist.*

Hmong National Development, Inc. – Washington, D.C. 1993 - 1995.

- *Conferences Coordinator and Organizer.*

Hmong-American Partnership, Inc. – St. Paul, MN. 1990 - 1991.

- *Co-Founder and Member of Board of Directors.*

Hmong-American National Catholic Association, Inc. - St. Paul, MN.
1989 - 1992.

- *Vice President and Co-Founder.*

Society of Hmong-American Quest for Advancement & Success, Inc. –
St. Paul, MN. 1985 - 1990.

- *Founder and Chairperson.*

Refugee Advocacy Coalition - St. Paul, MN. 1986 - 1988.

- *Committee Member.*

Southeast Asian Boy Scout of Indian Head Council – St. Paul, MN. 1985 – 1987.

- *Advisory Council Member.*

St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center – St. Paul, MN. 1984 - 1986.

- *Sudden Unexpected Deceased syndrome Advisory Committee Member.*

Hmong Milwaukeean Catholic Association - Milwaukee, WI. 1982 - 1984.

- *Founder and President.*

Brown County Hmong Mutual Assistance Association - Green Bay, WI.
1979 - 1980.

- *Co-Founder and Secretary of the Board.*

Hmong Lao Unity Association of Rhode Island - Providence, RI. 1976 - 1978.

- *Co-Founder and Secretary of the Board.*

POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND EXPERIENCES:

- 1980 – Volunteer for Carter for President
- 1984 – Volunteer for Mondale for President
- 1986 – Volunteer for Latimer for MN Governor
- 1990 – Volunteer for Wellstone for U.S. Senate
- 1995 – Volunteer for Ortega for Ramsey County
- 1995 – Volunteer for Bostrom for St. Paul City Council
- 1996 – Volunteer for Wellstone for U.S. Senate
- 1998 – Volunteer for Bruce Vento for U.S. Congress
- 1998 – Volunteer for Ann Wynia for U.S. Senate
- 2000 – Volunteer for Al Gore for President
- 2000 – Volunteer for McCollum for U.S. Congress
- 2002 – Volunteer for Wellstone for U.S. Senate
- 2002 – Volunteer for Mee Moua for MN Senate
- 2005 – Volunteer for Chris Coleman for St. Paul Mayor
- 2008 – Volunteer for Vallay Varro for St. Paul School Board
- 2008 – Volunteer for Obama for President
- 2010 – Volunteer for Harrington for MN Senate
- 2012 – Volunteer for Blong Yang for Hennepin County Commissioner
- 2012 – Volunteer for Vote No to Marriage Amendment and Vote ID
- 1998 to 2012 – Volunteer for three St. Paul school district's levy referenda
- 2014 Testify at the MN House of Representative Sub-Committee to support the same sex marriage bill
- 2012 - Present: Activist with Asian American Justice Center in regard to the comprehensive immigration reform
- Organize and coordinate 200 Hmong members to attend the rally of the comprehensive immigration reform in Washington D.C.
- May 2012, Attend the APAICS Leadership Training and Gala event in Washington DC and the address of President Obama to the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Community
- 2017 – Volunteer for Pat Harris for Mayor of St. Paul
- 2018 – Volunteer for Jay Xiong for MN State Representative of District 67 B

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, 1985 – Present

Speaker, panelist, and consultant at numerous conferences and events in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Houston, California and Washington, D.C. Primary topics included education, child welfare, juvenile justice issues, refugee issues, health care access and barriers for the Hmong and other API communities, diversity and multiculturalism and Hmong integration into the American legal system.

LANGUAGES PROFICIENCY:

- **Hmong** (both white & green Hmong), **Lao, Thai, French, & English.**

Gary Unger

1847 Idaho Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55119 | 651-247-7125 | garyunger@rocketmail.com

January 4, 2019

Trudy Moloney
Operations Director
15 West Kellogg Blvd Suite 310
St Paul, MN 55102

Dear Trudy Moloney:

I am writing today to express my interest in the position of Interim Ward 6 City Councilmember.

I believe I am the right candidate for this position due to not only being a lifelong eastside resident but because of my familiarity with city government and operations and extensive experience advocating for my neighborhood in a variety of ways.

I have served as the President of the District 2/Greater Eastside Community Council since 1979, representing a neighborhood of nearly 29,000 economically and culturally diverse residents. We have listened to the needs and wants of the residents and been able to provide programming such as a series of Cross-Cultural Dialogues, Community Gardens and the White Bear Avenue Parade that unifies these diverse voices and gives them an opportunity to shape their neighborhood.

As a volunteer for Citywide CIB Committee and a current member of the City of St Paul Charter Commission, I advocated and voted for several projects that created a stronger and more unified Ward 6. The completion and connection of the Phalen Boulevard project as well as the Re-use plan of the former 3M site and completion of the Phalen Village Small Area Plan which reclaimed Ames Lake are three of the many projects I worked extensively on.

These neighborhoods have had tremendous demographic shifts over the past 40 years. This position requires someone who can listen to and advocate for the needs of the neighborhood. I believe I am that candidate.

Please review the attached resume and contact me via my cell phone at 651-247-7125 or via email at garyunger@rocketmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Gary Unger

Gary Unger

1847 Idaho Ave E, St Paul, MN 55119 | 651-247-7125 | garyunger@rocketmail.com

Objective

To continue to serve and advocate for my community

Work Experience

MINNESOTA MINING & MANUFACTURING (3M)

- Mechanical Engineer
- Retired-35 years

HILLCREST GOLF COURSE

- Grounds Maintenance
- Retired

Volunteer Experience

DISTRICT 2 GREATER EASTSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL

President 1976-present

Under my tenure has developed programming to serve the residents of district 2 and produced several small area plans and updated comprehensive plans for the neighborhood.

WHITE BEAR AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Vice-President 2004-present

Serving and advocating the business community along and adjacent to White Bear Avenue in St Paul and Maplewood.

RAMSEY COUNTY AG. SOCIETY/COUNTY FAIR BOARD

2007-present

Served as grounds chair including logistics management and staff supervision.

NORTH EAST NEIGHBORHOOD DEV. CORPORATION BOARD

Charter member 1995-present

Served the board promoting development in district 2 including, the completion of the Phalen Village Area Plan and creation of the Phalen Boulevard.

ST PAUL CHARTER COMMISSION

2018-present

ST PAUL CIB COMMITTEE

Former Chairman-10+years

RAMSEY COUNTY CIPPAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10 + years

RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

15 years

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA/TREE CARE ADVISOR

15 years

VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL/HOCKEY COACH (ST PAUL PARK & REC)

15 years

Education

Johnson High School, graduate 1959

St Paul Vocational School, graduate 1962 (Tool and Die Maker)

University of Minnesota/River Falls, BS in Mechanical Engineering 1967